

TOMMY CONNOLLY'S TALK WITH PLUMBER BROTHER STARTED O'TOOLE ON ROAD TO STARDOM

By Umpire Billy Evans.

Fans can scarcely wait to see whether Barney Dreyfuss bought a gold brick for \$22,500 in Marty O'Toole.

O'Toole's chief asset is the spitter. The origin of Marty's use of the spit ball can be traced to Tommy Connolly, American league umpire.

O'Toole lives at South Framingham, Mass., near Natick, where Connolly spends the winter.

"Six years ago," Tommy told me, "Marty's brother Mike, who goes to St. Paul this year, was a plumber. I needed some pipes fixed in my house and gave the job to Mike. While he worked

we talked baseball.

"About this time the spit ball was at its height. Jack Chesbro having set the American league on fire, and O'Toole asked me what it was.

"I had a ball that Chesbro had used in an important game. At the close of the game I noticed a white spot on the ball made by the constant use of saliva. I was interested and took the ball with me when I left the park. I gave this ball to Mike and explained as well as I could how Chesbro worked his spit ball.

"That winter Mike and Marty fussed with the delivery and the next year both used it, with good results."

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